

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Caustic Soda Pipeline Release - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial and Final Pollution Report
Caustic Soda Pipeline Release
B49A
Mobile, AL
Latitude: 30.7516534 Longitude: -88.0688024

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPB
Grady Springer, ADEM

From: Kevin Eichinger, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 10/20/2016

Reporting Period: October 17 through October 19, 2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B49A	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/17/2016	Start Date:	10/17/2016
Demob Date:	10/19/2016	Completion Date:	10/19/2019
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	1161773	State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Emergency Response, Operating Facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Occidental Chemical Mobile Plant (facility) is an operating sodium hydroxide manufacturing facility that supplies finished products by pipeline and by tankers. Previously, the facility also manufactured chlorine. The site consists of multiple reaction and process equipment areas, tanks, associated offices and buildings. Typically nine personnel will staff the facility. The facility also has its own permitted waste water treatment plant on site.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 1300 Jarvis Road, Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. The geographical coordinates are 30.7516534, -88.0688024. The facility is located in an industrial area adjacent to the Mobile River.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The facility released approximately 2000 gallons of a solution of 50% Sodium Hydroxide (in water) to the ground, adjacent to a tributary of Chickasaw Creek and the Mobile River. Sodium hydroxide is a hazardous substance as defined CERCLA. The CERCLA RQ for the material is 1000 pounds. The estimated amount of sodium hydroxide released is 13,000 pounds.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On October 17, 2016, Occidental Chemical released approximate 2,000 gallons of a 50 percent solution of sodium hydroxide from a pipeline. The four-inch pipeline delivers the product to a customer adjacent to the facility. The line does not continuously flow and will transport approximately 30,000 gallons per delivery. The material saturated the insulation around the pipe and release to the ground at two locations. Both location traveled overland and pooled in low lying areas of a swampy portion of the property, adjacent to a Northfolk Southern Rail Line. The release could impact Gales Branch which is a tributary of the Chickasaw Creek and the Mobile River. There are no private residents in the immediate area. Multiple areas of ponded material was observed. The caustic material has a pH of greater than 12.5 and present a corrosive hazard to facility employees and surround flora and fauna.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Occidental Chemical personnel were performing an inspection on the line and discovered the release,

notified the National Response Center and hired environmental contractors to cleanup the spill.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On-Scene Coordinator met on site with representatives from United States Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) State On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and Occidental Chemical Management. Surveyed the release site. Observed areas of pooled material. No fauna mortality was observed. Contractors for Occidental Chemical were onsite establishing access roads and beginning remediation operations. After the site walk, conducted a tactics meeting and discussed the current remediation plans. Issued a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Notice of Federal Interest (NOFI) to Occidental Chemical. Once the access roads are established, the contaminated soil will be removed and staged pending disposal approvals. The material that is located in the swampy areas will be solidified and excavated. Once gross removal is completed, soil sampling will be conducted to assure that the contaminated soil is removed. Occidental Chemical is working with their customer to determine the exact amount of material released. ADEM State OSC will oversee the remediation.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The release was from a pipeline owned by Occidental Chemical onto Occidental Chemical property. The corporate contact for Occidental Chemical is:

Al Turner

1620 Marvin Griffin Road

Augusta, GA, 30906

706-793-6205

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2.2 Planning Section

Contractors for Occidental Chemical will conduct cleanup activities under ADEM State OSC oversight.

2.3 Logistics Section

No pertinent information to report at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

No pertinent information to report at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No pertinent information to report at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No pertinent information to report at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

Abbreviations and acronyms are spelled out within the text of the Pollution Report. Definitions will be added to this section as necessary.

ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

OSC - On- Scene Coordinator

ADEM - Alabama Department of Environmental Management

NCP - National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

NRC - National Response Center

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

RP - Responsible Party

NOFI - Notice of Federal Interest

EMA - Emergency Management Agency

ERRS - Emergency Rapid Response Service

CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

FPN - Federal Project Number

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaking Procedure

RCRA - Resource Conservation and Reclamation Act

OPA - Oil Pollution Act

CWA - Clean Water Act

ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Documents, photographs, maps and other important/pertinent information can be found at www.epaosoc.org/causticsodapipeline.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

No additional Pollution Reports (POLREPS) are planned at this time

7. Situational Reference Materials

Documents, photographs, maps and other important/pertinent information can be found at www.epaossc.org/causticsodapipeline.